

deltakappa.com

January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I find it reprehensible that Microsoft's jealous competitors motivated this lawsuit between the Department of Justice and Microsoft. Whatever merits there were in the origin of this case were lost amid the torrent of envy among Microsoft's competitors.

The last time I checked, ours was still an economy built upon the free enterprise system. It is simply not right for a group of companies to use whatever influence they could muster to persuade our government to file a lawsuit against a company based upon that company's success in the marketplace.

One can say what they want about Microsoft's often hard-nosed approach to business, but that is not reason enough to haul them into court. The settlement addresses the controversial points arising from the original trial three years ago, and ultimately will change the way that Microsoft does business in everything from design and conceptualization of software at the beginning, to licensing at the end.

This settlement recently negotiated at least has the virtue of ending this sideshow of a trial. For that reason alone it should be supported.

Sincerely,



David K. Payne